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# The 21st Annual South Carolina Archaeology Month

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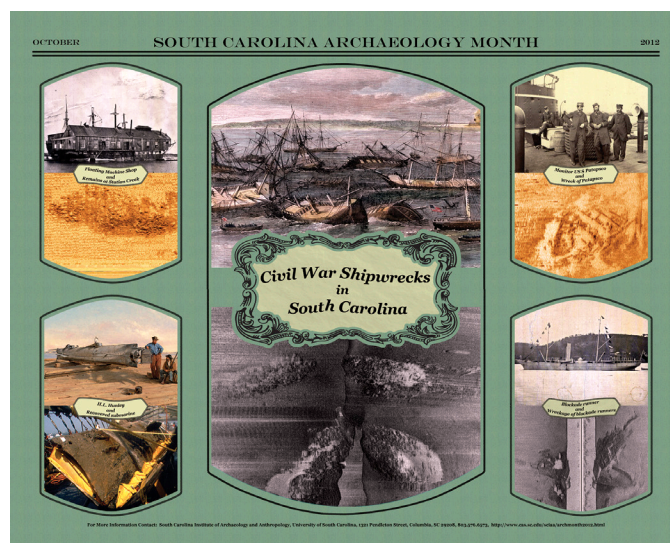
By James Spirek, Christopher Amer, and Nena Powell Rice

The SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) at the University of South Carolina celebrated the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual South Carolina Archaeology Month in October 2012. The fall event focused on bringing awareness to the numerous cultural programs that are offered in every corner of the state during Archaeology Month and throughout the year. Each year, the month-long event produces a topical poster focusing on current archaeological research in the Palmetto state. The theme for this year's South Carolina Archaeology Month poster is "Civil War Shipwrecks in South Carolina." A number of shipwrecks from the conflict remain on the bottom of the state's waterways including Federal warships, Confederate support vessels, and blockade-runners. The poster design this year is inspired by the layouts drawn during the war in the Northern illustrated newspaper, *Harper's Weekly*. Citizens and soldiers eagerly awaited their copy of the newspaper to not only read the articles, but also to see the numerous illustrations drawn by eyewitnesses of the battles and events fought on land and sea. The poster layout is similar to a large two-page spread showing a variety of vignettes of particular events of the war. The poster front has several compositions of historical images of several watercraft above the archaeological remains of the same vessels enclosed in a decorative element of hawse line. These historical-archaeological vignettes include one of the shipwrecks comprising the Union Floating Machine

Shop at Station Creek, Port Royal Sound, the wreck of USS *Patapsco*, the Confederate submarine *H.L. Hunley*, the wrecked blockade runners *Georgiana* and *Mary Bowers*, and the shipwrecks associated with the sinking of the First Stone Fleet by the Union navy. These last four sites are, or were in regards to the since recovered submarine, located off Charleston Harbor. The back of the

poster has several articles and additional images providing supplementary information about these shipwrecks featured on the front. An introductory article provides context for the shipwrecks by discussing the role of the U.S. navy, especially the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, during the war in state waters. Additionally, the poster back has a map showing the distribution of the Civil War shipwrecks along the coast and waterways of South Carolina. James Spirek and Christopher Amer of the Maritime Research Division were charged with the production of this year's poster.

Archaeology Month activities took place in October 2012 with a variety of statewide events focusing on prehistory, history, culture, and historic preservation. The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual South Carolina Archaeology Field Day sponsored by the



2012 South Carolina Archaeology Month poster. (Designed by James Spirek and Christopher Amer)

Archaeological Society of South Carolina (ASSC) was held at Santee State Park on Saturday, October 20, 2012 from 10 AM-5 PM, and the Lantern Tour was rejuvenated and was offered from 6:30-8 PM. Please check out the ASSC website at: <http://www.assc.net/events/>

For a list of scheduled events in connection with Archaeology Month and programs offered throughout the year at numerous archaeological organizations, visit the SCIAA website: <http://www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa>. Contact Nena Powell Rice (nrice@sc.edu) at SCIAA at (803) 576-6573 for further details about South Carolina Archaeology Month each year in October. Another website of archaeological interest in South Carolina is the Council of South Carolina Professional Archaeologists <http://coscapa.org>. Please come by SCIAA at 1321 Pendleton Street in Columbia, and pick up your free posters!